

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 15, and 19 are amended. Further consideration is requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 1-7 and 10-14 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 10 of US Patent No. 6,693,914. This rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-14 is addressed by the attached terminal disclaimer.

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Corbalis et al (US Patent No. 5,359,592). The rejection of these claims, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 10, 15, and 19 have all been amended to recite additional functionality not deemed to be present in the manner claimed. Specifically, claims 1, 10, 15, and 19 have been amended to recite that "the arbitration request can be made simultaneously with or a number of cycles later from the transfer request". Support for this additional limitation to claims 1, 10, 15, and 19 can be found in the specification at page 14, paragraph [0057]. No new matter is deemed to have been added to claims 1, 10, 15, and 19.

Claims 1, 10, 15, and 19 are deemed to be distinguishable over Corbalis et al as now containing at least one limitation not taught in the cited reference. These claims are therefore deemed to be allowable over 35 USC 102(b). The remaining dependent claims are deemed to be allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim for the reasons given above.

In view of all of the above, pending claims 1-7 and 10-21 are now believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone

conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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